

Syllabus: Film and Worldview

Course Description

Students will learn to examine film in light of a Christian worldview, by looking at storytelling, worldview and spirituality in the movies. Students will be viewing movies in and out of class and participating in class discussions. Finally, students will see how the story of redemption is one that is central to the majority of movies we view. This course is eligible for dual enrollment credit for junior and senior diploma students. Homework will average about 3 hours per week.

Attendance and Participation

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

Assignments & Exams

There are weekly reading assignments and presentation assignments. Students are responsible to keep up with the reading for every class period. There are two major assignments each semester. Descriptions and due dates are given on the course page.

Students will take a midterm and final exam. The exam at the end of the year will cover material discussed during the second semester only. All exams should be taken in one sitting and proctored by an adult. Unless directed by the teacher, students are not permitted to use any helps, books, notes or the Internet on any portion of exams. All exams are due at 11:55 PM ET on the date shown. Specific instructions will be provided by the instructor.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

- Class Attendance 5%

- Relevant Class Participation 15%
- Reading Assignments 30%
- Writing Assignments 20%
- Midterm/Final Assessment 30%

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 0% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student’s teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The books needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

Film and Worldview Course Kit (003567)

- Hollywood Worldviews (325301)
- The Universe Next Door (325090)
- Experiment in Criticisms (325312)
- The Filmmaker's Handbook (435370)

Films for the Course:

- Toy Story 3 , directed by Lee Unkrich, rated PG
- The Truman Show, directed by Peter Weir, rated PG 13
- Casablanca, directed by Michael Curtiz, rated NR
- Jaws, directed by Steven Spielberg, rated PG (Skip the brief silhouetted nudity at the beginning of the film. It's a swimmer girl who gets eaten.)
- ET: The Extra-Terrestrial, directed by Steven Spielberg, rated PG
- Miss Congeniality and Miss Congeniality, directed by Steven Spielberg, rated PG 13
- The Shawshank Redemption, directed by Frank Darabont, rated R (Rated R for language and intense situations.)
- Signs, directed by M. Night. Shyamalan, rated PG-13
- Maidentrip, directed by Jillian Schlesinger PG 13
- Monsters, directed by Gareth Edwards, rated R for language and intense situations.)
- Primer, directed by Shane Carrouth rated R (rated R for language and intense situations.)
- 12 Angry Men directed by Sydney Lumet, rated PG
- The Sound of Music, directed by Robert Wise, rated G
- La La Land, directed by Damien Chazelle, rated PG-13
- It's a Wonderful Life, directed by Frank Kapra, rated NR
- Rocky, written by Sylvester Stallone, rated PG
- The Princess Bride, directed by Rob Reiner, rated PG
- Captain America: The Winter Soldier directed by the Russo Brothers, rated PG-13
- Matrix directed by the Washowski Brothers, rated R (Rated R for stylized science fiction violence and language)
- Lawrence of Arabia, directed by David Lean, rated PG
- North by Northwest, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, rated PG
- Dead Poet Society, directed by Peter Weir, rated PG-13
- Contact, directed by Robert Zemekis, rated PG-13
- Wonder Woman, directed by Patty Jenkins, rated PG-13
- Arrival, directed Denis Villeneuve, rated PG-13
- Star Wars III and IV, directed George Lucas, rated PG-13 and PG

- Black Panther, directed Ryan Coogler, rated PG-13
- The Hunt for Red October, directed John McTeirnan, rated PG
- The Dark Knight Trilogy, directed by Christopher Nolan, rated PG-13
- Frozen, directed by Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee, rated PG
- The Greatest Showman, directed Michael Gracey, rated PG
- I Can Only Imagine, directed by the Erwin Brothers, rated PG-13
- Bruce Almighty, directed by Tom Shadyac, rated PG-13
- Citizen Kane, directed by Orson Wells, rated NR

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.